

BOOKS AND AUTHORS REVIEWS AND COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

The Red Cross Abroad and at Home—Its History and Growing Service in Peace and War—An Appeal for Support.

THE RED CROSS.

UNDER THE RED CROSS FLAG AT HOME AND ABROAD. By Mabel T. Boardman. Chairman National Red Cross Council. With a Foreword by Woodrow Wilson, President. Illustrated. 8vo. pp. 233. Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Company. \$1.50.

LETTERS FROM A FIELD HOSPITAL. By Mabel T. Boardman. With a Memoir of the Author by Stephen Gwynn. 12mo. pp. 152. The Macmillan Company.

Preservation of life to its fullest extent—it is a welcome change. And with it comes the change from the courage of carnage to the self-sacrificing courage of loving service. Mrs. Boardman's history of the Red Cross is already passing through its second edition, sufficient evidence of the popular reception which it so fully deserves. Still, even now, it will not be amiss to point out briefly its value. It is, first of all, the only complete history of the international Red Cross to appear in English; and, in the second place, the first history of the American Red Cross. Furthermore, the book gives a brief but most interesting survey of the development of the care of the wounded and sick in war since the days of Alexander the Great and the Roman legions; and, finally, it gives the reader a clear idea of the scope of Red Cross work in peace as well as in war, of the organization's instant readiness at any time to go to the front, whether it be in a mine disaster, a calamity like the eruption in Martinique and in Messina, an epidemic of plague in China, the horrors of Cuban concentration camps, the San Francisco catastrophe, or at the fronts in this world war.

There is the unceasing service of the American Red Cross in the battle against disease in times of peace, against the preventable loss of life in industry; its campaigns of hygiene teaching among the poor; the reduction of the infant death rate. A book of service, this, but also a book of scientific efficiency, of preparedness in a far wider sense than that expressed in ammunition, battleships and trained fighting men alone.

No American, and there are many, to whom even to-day the words Red Cross mean only the intermittent nursing of the wounded in war, or the effort to leave the battlefield in the hands of the angels. It will tell him that he, too, can serve, must serve for the honor as well as the greater welfare of the nation. Mrs. Boardman draws some pointed comparisons, not to our credit.

With its proud history of its noble deeds in peace and its efficient organization, what of the future of our American Red Cross? As yet this national organization of which we are so proud, and which has been in its infancy, lusty and vigorous, is still a child, and it must attain before it is a worthy representative of the United States of America. It has 25,000 members. Eighteen hundred thousand men, women and children of Japan constitute the membership of the Japanese Red Cross. Hundreds of thousands manifest their love of country in other lands by adhesion to the ranks of their national organizations. Our American Red Cross has less than \$1,000,000 in permanent fund. The permanent endowment of the Japanese Red Cross is nearly \$13,000,000. The Russian society, before the present war, had a reserve capital of \$19,000,000, and the funds of several other European associations are far greater than those of our own. In a country of such wealth, of such patriotism and humanity as this, the American people cannot

allow their Red Cross to remain without a just endowment.

Membership in the Red Cross of America is peace insurance and war insurance both—a contribution to a better, a safer, a healthier, a richer, a more solid and more powerful commonwealth.

The author's account of the services already rendered and still being rendered by the American Red Cross in Europe passes what expert management can do, even with comparatively small means. In fact, few of the European narratives of hospital experience fail to pay tribute to its work.

There are the letters of Mabel Boardman, for instance, who enlisted as a British hospital orderly and died of enteric fever in a Serbian typhus camp. One of her first letters, written in Paris, tells of a doctor on his way back from Serbia with the remnants of an American unit. This was a pretty thing, indeed, to see. The doctors and nurses died—but we came with every precaution, probably at the end of the typhus. At Kruguevatz, where she died, Mrs. Boardman found the Serbian hospital in charge of an Austrian army physician, a prisoner, who looked after and treated two hundred patients all alone. At the end of her three months she realized, and then the tragedy began.

I have a touch of fever. Here is the history: The Narednik had it first and was promptly removed—then Nurse Reid—then Dorothy Pickett, Nurse Willis and Bothe and Miss Johnson, the manager of the laundry. I felt ill, but I vowed that as long as I could I would keep on my feet. I just made myself scarce when temperatures were taken, and kept on—then I got too bad and had to give up.

She died suddenly after she had been declared out of danger. Her younger son fell at Svila Jura, the elder one is still serving his country.

This is the diary of a trained writer, the author of several novels and plays. There is humor in her letters—the humor of her own misadventure, the humor of her own misadventure, the humor of her own misadventure.

It is the successful fulfillment of this latter function which makes the files of a paper the history of the times. It is that which makes a paper like "The Nation" of so great value, both to the contemporary reader and to posterity.

Nearly forty years ago, discussing the trouble in the Texas-Mexican borderland, "The Nation" said, as might as apply be said to-day:

Nothing can secure tranquility and order but a respectable force of our regular army, with officers and men free alike from the heat of revenge and schemes for loot. Annexation will not remove the necessity for such an armed force, for if Tamulipais were to-day, with its sacred and quietness, an American instead of a Mexican state, the character of the people would require for many years a large army of occupation, as there is no magic in the Stars and Stripes that will reform a community of cattle thieves; and our statesmen should ponder well the fact that an addition to the territory of our Republic gives us so many more masters, instead of subjects.

It was at an earlier date than that more than forty-five years ago, in the war of the "Terrible Year," that Mr. Dickinson wrote words which then seemed timely and which now seem to have been also prophetic:

It is impossible for anybody who watches the course of the present struggle in Europe to avoid being struck by the increasing difficulty of the position of neutral nations in all wars. The close relations, as far as time and space are concerned, into which steam and the telegraph and commerce have brought all civilized nations, make it impossible for any one to be a neutral in the modern sense. The Prussians, far from being satisfied with the enthusiastic articles in the English papers, are full of indignation at the demand for neutrality in all wars. The two volumes are now passing through the press under the general editorship of Mr. C. T. Onions.

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EDWIN HERBERT LEWIS.
(Those About Trench: The Macmillan Company.)

troops, is a crime against humanity. There is not the shadow of excuse in morals for applying the sale of arms for warlike purposes up to the moment the war breaks out and then republishing it as an un-Christian. War and the preparation for war are parts of one great transaction, which must, in the forum of morals, stand or fall as a whole.

But we must not reprint the whole volume in quotations, readily as it lends itself to the purpose. We have sufficiently indicated the satisfactory blending of the ideal and the real which has been effected by the writers of "The Nation." It is being effected to-day not only by being, but by a considerable and, we trust, increasing number of journalists who intelligently and consistently seek to rise to the full dignity of their estate and to make the pages of their journals a discriminating history, in both chronicle and comment, of their times. Nor is it fitting to add that this volume shows the possible and actual union, not only of the ideal and the real, but also, with equal success, of literature and journalism. The essays here reproduced are sufficiently brief and timely to serve as up-to-date journalism, and they require nothing more than reading after the lapse of years to be appreciated as literary contributions of their times. Nor is it fitting to add that this volume shows the possible and actual union, not only of the ideal and the real, but also, with equal success, of literature and journalism.

There are reproductions in colors of the war paintings in Russia and France of a Russian artist, Leon Spassky, with text by James E. Carrington. The text in this number is led by Mrs. Wharton, with "Kerfoul," which tells a ghostly legend of a sixteenth-century Breton castle, the ghosts being those of which at the time figured in a murder trial that was transferred from the secular to the ecclesiastical authorities.

"A Little Fly in Culture," by Jessie S. Miner, is an episode, the adventure of an American girl in Berlin who, through circumstance, was as unconventional as American girls are expected to be in Europe, and in whom the unconventionality awakened an intense longing for "home" and "Bible."

ARMISTEAD C. GORDON; Jesse Lynch Williams concludes his novelette, "Requiem," by Dana H. Carroll, "Special mention is made of the historical piece, 'Love's Surrender at Appomattox,' is from a painting by Sidney H. Riesenberg.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.

Albert Bigelow Paine tells in his paper, "A Yankee in Switzerland," in the new "Harper's," this anecdote, which, if it be literally true, has undoubtedly a solid substratum of fact. "I had known the name of the Swiss President, and for a week was ashamed to confess it. I was hoping I might see it in one of the French papers I puzzled over every evening. But at the end of the week I timely and apologetically inquired of my friendly landlord as to the name of the Swiss President. But then came a shock. Our landlord grew confused, blushed and confessed that he didn't know. He said, 'I had known it, he said, but it had slipped his mind. I asked a man who sold me cigars. He had forgotten, too. I asked the apothecary, but got no information. I was not so stupid as to think I asked a fellow passenger, guest, I mean—an American, but of long Swiss residence, and got this story. I believe most of it. He said:

"When I came to Switzerland and found out what a wonderful little country it was, its government so economical, so free from party corruption and spoils, from craft and politics, so different from the home life of our own dear Columbia, I thought: 'The man at the head of this thing must be a master hand; I'll find out his name.' So I picked out a bright-looking subject and said: 'What is the name of the Swiss President?' "He tried to pretend he didn't understand my French, but he did, for I can tear the language off all right—learned it studying art in Paris. When I pinned him down he said he knew the name well enough, parlez-moi, but couldn't think of it at that moment.

"That was a surprise, but I asked the next man. He couldn't think of it, either. Then I asked a third man. Of course he knew it all right. 'Oh, oui, certainement, mais'—then he scratched his head and scowled, but he couldn't dig up that name. He was just a plain 'fact-out'—simplement—like the others. I asked every man I met, and every one of them knew it, had it right on the end of his tongue, but somehow it seemed so sticky. Not a man in Vevey or Montreux could tell me the name of the Swiss President. I had about given it up when one evening there in Berne I noticed a sturdy man with an honest face approaching. He looked intelligent, too, and as a last resort I said, 'Could you, by any chance, tell me the name of the Swiss President?' "The effect was startling. He seized me by the arm and, after looking up and down the street, leaned forward and whispered in my ear: 'Mon dieu! c'est moi! I am the Swiss President; but—ah, non, don't tell any one. I am the only man in Switzerland who knows it.' "You see, my friend, the name of the elected privately; no torch-

new cartridge or breechloader that his calling brought any stigma on him, or that it barred his entrance into any Christian church, or charity, or mission board, or even against his own people. But here comes the absurdity of this outcry about the immorality of selling arms to belligerents. Turkey has been arming for the last three years vigorously with Remington breechloaders, all imported from this country. It is well known that they are to be used in killing Russians, but no word of protest has ever been heard against the transaction, or will be heard as long as the killing has not actually begun. Let Turkey, however, begin to defend herself this summer against an attack by Russia and we shall be gravely told that to sell any more Remingtons to her to take the place of those lost in active service, or to arm fresh

NEWS AND GOSSIP OF BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Shakespeare's England—President Wilson: The Man and His Work—More Hapsburg Gossip—The Far East—"Chicago Poems"—Spring Fiction.

In connection with the Shakespeare Tercentenary the Oxford University Press will publish in two volumes a work entitled "The England of Shakespeare," containing an elaborate account of the life, society, customs, institutions and recreations of the Elizabethan age, the materials for which have been collected, with the assistance of many collaborators, by Sir Sidney Lee. Thus Dr. Henry Bradley deals with Shakespeare's English. Sir E. Maunde Thompson with handwriting. Sir Walter Raleigh with the Elizabethan age, Mr. J. W. Fortescue with the chase, Sir W. Threlknot-Dyer with plants and Professor Firth with ballads. Other chapters deal with authors and patrons, bookkeepers, printers and the stationer's trade, the playhouses, rogues and vagabonds, the court, the army and navy, voyages and exploration, religion, learning and scholarship, etc., the whole object being to familiarize the reader with the background and atmosphere of Shakespeare's plays. The two volumes are now passing through the press under the general editorship of Mr. C. T. Onions.

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"He is only a sort of chairman, though of course his work is important; and the present incumbent has been elected a number of times. His name is—Ah, yes, that's my name. So sorry to have to hurry away—see you tonight at dinner."

There is some interesting gossip of many Victorian luminaries in "Some Unpublished Papers of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning," John Burroughs writes of "The Master Instinct," the birds' nest building in spring; Walter de la Mare, "The New Wealth," which we lack the leisure to spend properly, therefore so much of our spending is banal and puerile. There are short stories by William Dean Howells, Mrs. Henry Dunant, Jennette Lee, Wilbur Daniel Steele and others.

THE CENTURY.

A reproduction in full colors of James Montgomery Flagg's portrait of Ethel Barrymore forms the frontispiece of the March "Century." Another welcome artistic feature of this number is a series of British war posters by Spencer Bryson and Frank Wood. The "Century" may be relied upon from month to month for a good article on the war and cognate subjects. This time it is a warning against "The Japanese Menace," by Thomas F. Millard. According to Mr. Millard, Japan's opportunity is now. She has strained every nerve, taxed herself beyond her economic welfare for the sake of her army and navy. She must strike soon or give up her ambitions for sheer lack of financial endurance. Through a victorious war she can recoup herself. "Because of the war she is herself freed from mediocrity. She can turn her back on Russia without alarm, and deterring influences of Great Britain and France are for the time ineffective. The 'Uproar' of the Japanese at the minimum of its comparative armed power, and totally lacking in supports. . . . If Japan ever is to challenge this nation on the crucial issues that lie between them, this to her seems to be a God-send. A searching study of the attitude and the position of the British workingmen in war time, by Harrison Smith, deserves close reading. Mr. Smith explains the causes of their discontent and their suspicions that capital is undermining the strength of labor; and he reaches the "unavoidable" conclusion that labor is preparing itself, either for the war or during it, if it should be prolonged, for some stupendous struggle with capital. . . . Governor Whitman's paper on "Our Prison Problem" is brief and to the point. It is based upon the work of the Prison Commission, Comstock, in this state. That he holds, should be our standard of reform. . . . J. Nilsen Laurvik discusses Hungarian and Norwegian art at the San Francisco Exposition in an attractively illustrated article. . . . Inis Weed describes a puppet play performance for children at the Chicago Little Theatre. . . . There are five short stories, among them "Ladies," by Inez Hager and Spain, "Our various dealings," with Latin America and every other aspect of our international relationships to the beginning of the world war. He believes that the foreign relations of this country are the least generally known phase of its history, and that this ignorance is part of a somewhat bigoted national egotism from which many of our ills have sprung and will continue to spring. His object is to describe the American people, most cosmopolitan in actual composition but least cosmopolitan in sympathy and genius, with a more adequate conception of their place in the world. His work is cast in the form of a non-technical, but studiously accurate, narrative designed to give the average lay citizen a clear understanding of topics which are among the most important and the most neglected in all our national annals.

FOR AUTOGRAPH LETTERS

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New York Herald says:—"Her pages are interesting throughout, and every one of them is marked with a genuine sympathy for the struggles of her own sex."